United Nations S/PRST/2002/20

Security Council

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18 July 2002

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4578th meeting of the Security Council, held on 18 July 2002, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council supports the Joint Statement of the 'Quartet', annexed to this statement, which was issued in New York on 16 July 2002 by the Secretary-General, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Secretary of State of the United States, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, the High Representative for the European Union Common Foreign and Security Policy and the European Commissioner for External Affairs. The Security Council appreciates also the involvement in discussions with the 'Quartet' of senior representatives of Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

"The Security Council calls upon the Government of Israel, the Palestinian Authority and all States in the region to cooperate with the efforts to achieve the goals set out in the Joint Statement and stresses the importance of, and the need to achieve, a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, based on all its relevant resolutions including its resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973 and 1397 (2002) of 12 March 2002, the Madrid terms of reference and the principle of land for peace."

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Annex

"QUARTET" JOINT STATEMENT

Following is the text of a joint statement issued by the "Quartet" (United Nations, Russian Federation, the United States and the European Union) following their meeting in New York.

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, U.S. Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller, High Representative for European Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana and European Commissioner for External Affairs Chris Patten met in New York today. The Quartet members reviewed the situation in the Middle East and agreed to continue close consultations, as expressed in the Madrid Declaration, to which the Quartet remains fully committed, to promote a just, comprehensive, and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict. The Quartet expresses its support for the convening of a further international Ministerial meeting at an appropriate time.

The Quartet deeply deplores today's tragic killing of Israeli civilians and reiterates its strong and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism, including suicide bombing, which is morally repugnant and has caused great harm to the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people for a better future. Terrorists must not be allowed to kill the hope of an entire region, and a united international community, for genuine peace and security for both Palestinians and Israelis. The Quartet expresses once again its profound regret at the loss of innocent Israeli and Palestinian lives, and extends its sympathy to all those who have suffered loss. The Quartet members expressed their increasing concern about the mounting humanitarian crisis in Palestinian areas and their determination to address urgent Palestinian needs.

Consistent with President Bush's June 24 statement, the UN, EU and Russia express their strong support for the goal of achieving a final Israeli-Palestinian settlement which, with intensive effort on security and reform by all, could be reached within three years from now. The UN, EU and Russia welcome President Bush's commitment to active U.S. leadership toward that goal. The Quartet remains committed to implementing the vision of two states, Israel and an independent, viable and democratic Palestine, living side by side in peace and security, as affirmed by UN Security Council Resolution 1397. The Quartet members, in their individual capacity and jointly, pledge all possible efforts to

realize the goals of reform, security and peace and reaffirm that progress in the political, security, economic, humanitarian, and institution-building fields must proceed together, hand-in-hand. The Quartet reiterates its welcome of the initiative of Saudi Arabia, endorsed by the Arab League Beirut Summit, as a significant contribution towards a comprehensive peace.

To assist progress toward these shared goals, the Quartet agreed on the importance of a coordinated international campaign to support Palestinian efforts at political and economic reform. The Quartet welcomes and encourages the strong Palestinian interest in fundamental reform, including the Palestinian 100-Day Reform Program. It also welcomes the willingness of regional states and the international community to assist the Palestinians to build institutions of good government, and to create a new governing framework of working democracy, in preparation for statehood. For these objectives to be realized, it is essential that well-prepared, free, open and democratic elections take place. The new international Task Force on Reform, which is comprised of representatives of the U.S., EU, UN Secretary General, Russia, Japan, Norway, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and which works under the auspices of the Quartet, will strive to develop and implement a comprehensive action plan for reform. The inaugural meeting of this Task Force in London July 10 discussed a detailed plan including specific Palestinian commitments. It will meet again in August to review actions in areas including civil society, financial accountability, local government, the market economy, elections, and judicial and administrative reform.

Implementation of an action plan, with appropriate benchmarks for progress on reform measures, should lead to the establishment of a democratic Palestinian state characterized by the rule of law, separation of powers, and a vibrant free market economy that can best serve the interests of its people. The Quartet also commits itself to continuing to assist the parties in efforts to renew dialogue, and welcomes in this regard the recent high-level ministerial meetings between Israelis and Palestinians on the issues of security, economics and reform.

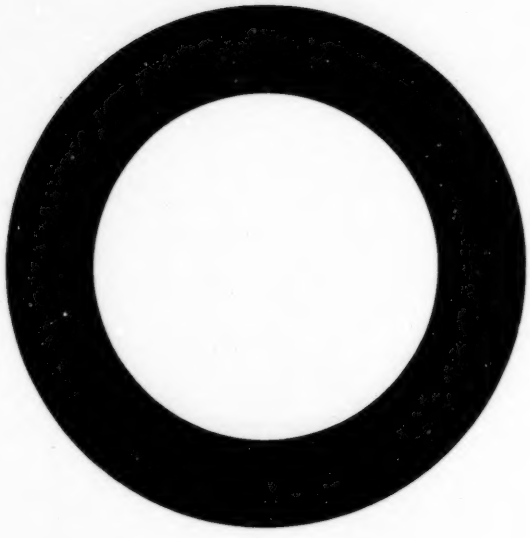
The Quartet agreed on the critical need to build new and efficient Palestinian security capabilities on sound bases of unified command, and transparency and accountability with regard to resources and conduct. Restructuring security institutions to serve these goals should lead to improvement in Palestinian security performance, which is essential to progress on other aspects of institutional transformation and realization of a Palestinian state committed to combating terror.

In this context, the Quartet notes Israel's vital stake in the success of Palestinian reform. The Quartet calls upon Israel to take concrete steps to support the emergence of a viable Palestinian state. Recognizing Israel's legitimate security concerns, these steps include immediate measures to ease the internal closures in certain areas and, as security improves through reciprocal steps, withdrawal of Israeli forces to their pre-September 28, 2000 positions. Moreover, frozen tax revenues should be released. In this connection, a

more transparent and accountable mechanism is being put into place. In addition, consistent with the Mitchell Committee's recommendations, Israel should stop all new settlement activity. Israel must also ensure full, safe and unfettered access for international and humanitarian personnel.

The Quartet reaffirms that there must be a negotiated permanent settlement based on UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. There can be no military solution to the conflict; Israelis and Palestinians must address the core issues that divide them, through sustained negotiations, if there is to be real and lasting peace and security. The Israeli occupation that began in 1967 must end, and Israel must have secure and recognized borders. The Quartet further reaffirms its commitment to the goal of a comprehensive regional peace between Israel and Lebanon, and Israel and Syria, based upon Resolutions 242 and 338, the Madrid terms of reference, and the principle of land for peace.

The Quartet looks forward to upcoming consultations with the Foreign Ministers of Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and other regional partners, and determines to continue regular consultation on the situation in the Middle East at the principals' level. The Quartet envoys will continue their work on the ground to support the work of the principals, to assist the Task Force on Reform, and to aid the parties in resuming a political dialogue in order to reach a solution to the core political questions.



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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4582nd meeting of the Security Council, held on 23 July 2002, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council.

"The Security Council welcomes the report on the judicial status of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the prospects for referring certain cases to national courts (S/2002/678) submitted by the President of the Tribunal on 10 June 2002.

"The Council recognizes, as it has done on other occasions (for example in its resolution 1329 (2000) of 30 November 2000), that the ICTY should concentrate its work on the prosecution and trial of the civilian, military and paramilitary leaders suspected of being responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia since 1991, rather than on minor actors.

"The Security Council therefore endorses the report's broad strategy for the transfer of cases involving intermediary and lower-level accused to competent national jurisdictions as likely to be in practice the best way of allowing the ICTY to achieve its current objective of completing all trial activities at first instance by 2008. The Council invites States and relevant international and regional organizations to contribute as appropriate to the strengthening of national judicial systems of the States of the former Yugoslavia in order to facilitate the implementation of this policy.

"The Security Council takes note of the recommendations of the ICTY with regard to the creation, as proposed by the High Representative to Bosnia and Herzegovina, of a specific Chamber, within the State Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to deal with serious violations of international humanitarian law. The Security Council is ready to look constructively and positively at this matter when more details of the proposed arrangements are available. The Council also takes note of the intention of the ICTY to amend its Rules of Procedure and Evidence in order to facilitate the referral of cases to competent national jurisdictions.

"The Security Council will remain seized of this matter."

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4583rd meeting of the Security Council, held on 23 July 2002, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council recalls the seriousness of the events that took place in Kisangani on 14 May 2002 and immediately thereafter, and expresses its appreciation for the report and recommendations presented to the Council by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (S/2002/764), building on the investigation conducted in association with the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) into the events to which the Council had drawn the attention of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (S/PRST/2002/17). It reiterates its strong condemnation of the killings and attacks against civilians, soldiers and police officers that took place on 14 May 2002 and thereafter in Kisangani. The Security Council stresses that the Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie (RCD-GOMA) is responsible for the massacres that took place after regaining control over the city's radio station on 14 May. The Security Council demands that RCD-GOMA take the necessary measures to bring the perpetrators and those among them who ordered or were involved in the massacre to justice. The Security Council stresses that Rwanda has a duty to use its strong influence to ensure that RCD-GOMA comply with this demand.

"The Security Council stresses that RCD-GOMA will be held accountable for any extrajudicial executions, including among members of the civil society or detainees at the detention centres of RCD in Kisangani. It also stresses that Rwanda has a duty to use its strong influence to ensure that RCD-GOMA takes no such action. It requests MONUC to continue its investigations in cooperation with the OHCHR in order to gather further information concerning the massacres in Kisangani and to make recommendations on concrete measures to be taken to effectively end impunity. It recalls MONUC's mandate to extend its protection, in accordance with its resolution 1417 (2002) of 6 June 2002, to civilians under imminent threat of physical violence, in the areas of deployment of its armed units and as it deems it within its capabilities.

"The Security Council reiterates that the RCD-GOMA must demilitarize Kisangani without any further delay or condition and stresses this would prevent any future recurrence of these recent tragic events. RCD-GOMA must

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also cooperate with MONUC and OHCHR in their investigations to identify all the victims and perpetrators in Kisangani so that the latter will be brought to justice, and also to ensure an end to all violations of human rights and to impunity in all areas under its control.

"The Security Council expresses its serious concern at the absence of accountability throughout the Democratic Republic of the Congo noted in the report of the OHCHR, and calls on all parties to take immediate steps to ensure an end to impunity and full respect for human rights.

"The Security Council also expresses its deep concern at the strengthening of troops in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. It expresses particular concern at the situation in South Kivu, in particular in the Hauts Plateaux and around Minembwe, where fighting has increased between the Rwandan Patriotic Army and Banyamulenge, supported by other armed forces. It calls for the cessation of this fighting, which is having a severe humanitarian impact on the population in the area. It calls on the Government of Rwanda to cooperate with the teams from MONUC and OCHA which are to be sent to the area as soon as possible to establish the facts, including by providing the necessary security guarantees.

"The Security Council also expresses its concern at the rising tensions in the Ituri region and calls on all parties to exert restraint. It also expresses concern at the military actions in Pweto. It requests the Political Committee of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement to address expeditiously the issue of Pweto, in accordance with the Kampala and Harare plans for disengagement and with the decisions taken by the Joint Military Commission (JMC), and in accordance with its resolution 1399 (2002) of 19 March 2002.

"The Security Council welcomes efforts and good offices of the Republic of South Africa, in its capacity as chair of the African Union, and of the Secretary-General, to help the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda reach an agreement to tackle the problem of the armed groups and to take forward the withdrawal of Rwandan troops, in the context of the full withdrawal of all foreign troops from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in accordance with the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and relevant Security Council resolutions. In this regard, it encourages the leaders of the two countries to continue working out ways to address their fundamental security concerns, and welcomes the discussions between representatives of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda on the idea of a curtain of troops, as a mechanism for countries of the region to cooperate to ensure the security of their common borders. The Security Council requests MONUC and the JMC to assist the parties in the development of the curtain mechanism.

"The Security Council reiterates the importance it attaches to an all-inclusive agreement on the political transition, taking into account the progress achieved in Sun City, and in this regard expresses its full support for the efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General and calls on all actors in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in the region to cooperate fully with him. The Council welcomes the support of the African Union, in particular through the Special Representative of the Interim Chairman of its Commission, for this process.

"The Security Council reaffirms the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and all other States in the region.

"The Security Council reiterates its full support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and for all MONUC personnel, and demands that RCD-GOMA fully cooperate with the Special Representative and MONUC in the implementation of their mandate.

"The Security Council, noting the encouraging political developments both in terms of contacts among the Congolese parties and among regional States, calls on all the parties to recommit themselves to taking forward these political processes and to refrain from any military action that would undermine the progress for peace."

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24 July 2002

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4585th meeting of the Security Council, held on 24 July 2002, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Admission of new Members", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council has decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Swiss Confederation be admitted as a Member of the United Nations. On behalf of the members of the Security Council, I wish to extend my congratulations to the Swiss Confederation on this historic occasion.

"The Council notes with great satisfaction the Swiss Confederation's solemn commitment to uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to fulfil all the obligations contained therein.

"We look forward to the day in the near future when the Swiss Confederation will join us as a Member of the United Nations and to working closely with its representatives."

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